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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO

TOPIC Volkspolizei Ordnance Depot in Berlin-Lichtenberg

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DATE OF CONTENT 28 November to 18 December 1950

DATE PREPARED 5 February 1951

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REMARKS

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1. An ordnance depot of four completed warehouses and two warehouses still under construction was seen on the former Derutra premises in Berlin-Lichtenberg on 28 November 1950. *
2. Beginning 20 November, 20 to 30 factory-new Soviet ZIS trucks daily arrived there by rail via the freight station of Rummelsburg. Boxes with gun parts, including a gun barrel of approximately 80 cm caliber about 3 meters long and wrapped in oiled paper, also arrived by rail and were seen stored in a warehouse. About two-thirds of the trucks were fitted with separately delivered bodies for the transportation of personnel; one-third were fitted with bodies for the transportation of cargo. The personnel carriers were equipped with seats and rifle racks. Every third personnel carrier is being equipped with a slide of steel plate about 35 cm wide for mounting a gun on the truck bed. The solid-tired gun carriage wheels of about 90 cm diameter were removed before mounting the gun. **
3. Trucks and gun parts observed on 28 November included 50 trucks, 65 gun carriages and numerous boxes with gun parts; 40 trucks, no gun carriages and approximately 80 crated gun barrels on 4 December; 7 trucks, no gun carriages and approximately 40 crated gun barrels on 12 December; and 18 trucks, no gun carriages and approximately 20 crated gun barrels on 18 December.
4. Trucks and guns allocated were picked up by Volkspolizei details. Laborers stated that such issues went to Volkspolizei units stationed near Berlin, such as the 21st Volkspolizei Bereitschaft in Klein-Machnow (N 53/Z 73), which received an issue on 28 November 1950. ***

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* Comment. The ordnance depot and the Derutra store were reported for the first time. Information concerning the NVA equipment depot near the railroad station of Berlin-Magerviehhoef on Marzehner Strasse in the city district of Friedrichsfelde has been received frequently.

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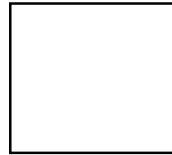
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** [] Comment. In December 1950, it was observed that a total of 600 used and 460 new motor vehicles and approximately 200 light AA guns were shipped to the Soviet Zone of Germany across the Oder-Neisse Line. [] It is possible that some of the trucks and arms may be destined for the Volkspolizei. The guns mounted on trucks are believed to be AA guns of 20, 25 or 37 mm caliber, rather than guns of approximately 80 mm.

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*** [] Comment. Only a Grenzpolizei Kommandantur of the Ring-um-Berlin units is known to be stationed in Klein-Machnow. It may have the designation 2/I, which was confused with 21.

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